

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending. Of these, claims 1-5, 11-13, 15-17, 25-27 and 29-32 are rejected. Claims 6-10, 14, 18-24 and 28 are conditionally allowable. Claims 6-9, 14, 18-23 and 28 have been amended. Claims 1-5, 11-13, 15-17, 25-27 and 29-32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter that was claimed therein. Applicant reserves the right to pursue one or more of the canceled claims in a Continuing application.

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant claim amendments add no new matter to the application. Instead, the amendments merely rewrite dependent claims in independent form, or address formalities such as proper terminology or format.

Claim Objections

Claims 13, 14, 27 and 28 are objected to on grounds that the claims recite improper Markush terminology. Applicants respectfully submit that cancellation of claims 13 and 27, and amendment of claims 14 and 28 now renders this objection as moot.

The Prior Art Rejections


Claims 1-3, 5, 11-13, 15, 17, 25-27, 29, 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,553,008 to Reischl et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Reischl"). Claims 1, 2, 4, 12, 15-17, 25, 26, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,492,154 to Einstman (hereinafter referred to as "Einstman"). The claims were rejected for the reasons of record set forth in the prior Office Action mailed 05 April 2004 and Advisory Action mailed 22 September 2004.

Applicant respectfully submits that the instant amendments render these rejections moot. Specifically, the Action stated that claims 6-10, 14, 18-24 and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has now amended these allowable dependent claims accordingly.

In view of the amendments and the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 6-10, 14, 18-24 and 28.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action on the part of Applicant would be desirable, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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